

a display panel;

first means for generating light for the display panel; and

second means for housing the display panel, wherein the second [housing] means functions as a light pipe and conducts [is for conducting] light between the first means for generating light and the display panel.

17. (Twice Amended) A method for conducting light in a computer system having a LCD and a LCD housing comprising:

generating light; and

conducting the generated light through the LCD housing, wherein the LCD housing functions as a light pipe for illuminating the LCD and protects the LCD.

II. Remarks

The above amendments and these remarks are submitted in response to the Office Action of June 9, 1999. In that action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 or 35 U.S.C. § 103 in light of U.S. Patent No. 5,661,578 to Habing et al. In a telephone conference, the Examiner indicated that the invention disclosed had [?] clear novelty, but that the claims did not quite distinguish themselves from Habing.

Accordingly, the Applicant has amended all independent claims 1, 16, and 17 to make clear that, in the present invention, the LCD housing is performing two distinct functions; the light pipe function and the protective cover or housing function. The prior art, of course, used two distinct structural elements to perform these function, whereas here, only one -- the LCD